



The Minuteman Repeater Association

# The Minuteman

Volume 36, Number 1

September 2006



## Membership Meeting — 20 September 2006

Our meeting is at **MEMA** in Framingham at 7:30 PM.  
**Gordon Pettengill, W1OUN**, will be our featured speaker.  
Directions to MEMA are on Page 3.  
Talk-in on 146.79

Our meeting will feature **Gordon Pettengill, W1OUN**, first licensed in 1943. Gordon has been involved in radio and radar experiments involving the Moon and planets for over 50 years. A participant in early attempts to receive echoes from Venus in the late 1950's, as an MIT professor he led many subsequent radar observations of Mercury,

Venus, Mars, Jupiter's satellites, and the rings of Saturn. Included were several radar-equipped spacecraft that orbited Venus and mapped its surface. He will talk about the early days (1950's and 60s) of amateur moon-bounce, using Sam Harris' system (W1BU) in Medfield, MA, as well as the huge 1000-ft antenna at Arecibo, PR.

## President's Corner ~ Bob Dematia, K1IW

As many of you know, the club has monthly bills at some of our sites, as well as ongoing maintenance and repair to our extensive repeater network. We also have upcoming major concerns for which we need to prepare. For example, the Slygo hill shelter is in bad disrepair. Much of the steel floor is rusting away, and the roof is eternally springing leaks. We keep patching it up, but at some point the shelter will be more concrete and bondo than sheet metal!

**To pay for all these things, the club collects annual dues of \$25 per individual member and \$35 per family membership, a rate which we have not raised in at least twenty years!**

An ongoing concern to the MMRA is use of our repeaters by non-club members. These users consume our resources without helping to pay for them. In the spirit of amateur radio, the long standing policy of our club is that our repeaters are open to all, but that we ask regular users of our repeaters to help support the club. Certain club officers often take it upon themselves to "remind" non-member users of this policy, and are ready to provide the necessary membership enrollment paperwork to set them on the way to club membership. We have had pretty good success with this, but one thing we've found to be most effective is when their friends do the reminding rather than a club officer whom they might not know. If you have regular conversations on MMRA repeaters with non-members, I'd ask you to consider politely asking them to join. It doesn't need to be heavy-handed, sometimes a gentle reminder and a smile is the best pitch.

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## About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Meeting time, locations and talk-in frequency vary. These are announced in the newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

The Minuteman newsletter is mailed one week before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be sent to the editor via email to [newsletter@mmra.org](mailto:newsletter@mmra.org). The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Please join us.

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to [contact@mmra.org](mailto:contact@mmra.org). The MMRA maintains a web site at: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members named "MMRA" has been established at: <http://www.yahoogroups.com/>

***No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.***

### Repeater and Frequency Information

Location	MHz	PL	Call	Note
Bolton	29.620	131.8	W1OJ	Affiliated, PTL
Marlboro	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL
Norwell	145.250	77.0	AC1M	Affiliated, PTL
Mendon	146.610	146.2	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL
Stoneham	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL
Weston	146.790	146.2	N1BE	PTL
Brookline	146.820	146.2	K5TEC	FTL
Brookline	146.985	88.5	W1FCC	Affiliated, PTL
Marlboro	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL (to 10 Meters)
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	N1BHI	FTL
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	FTL
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1NOM	FTL
Marlboro	224.880	103.5	W1MRA	FTL (to 10 Meters)
Weston	442.700	88.5	N1NOM	(coming soon)
Norwell	443.600	88.5	NS1N	Affiliated, PTL
Stoneham	446.725	88.5	W1DYJ	FTL
Milford	446.825	100.0	WA1QGU	Affiliated, PTL
Brookline	447.875	136.5	K1IW	Affiliated, FTL
Shrewsbury	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	FTL
Marlboro	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub
Marlboro	144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater
???	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box
Internet	Echolink node 94940			
	IRLP node 4133			

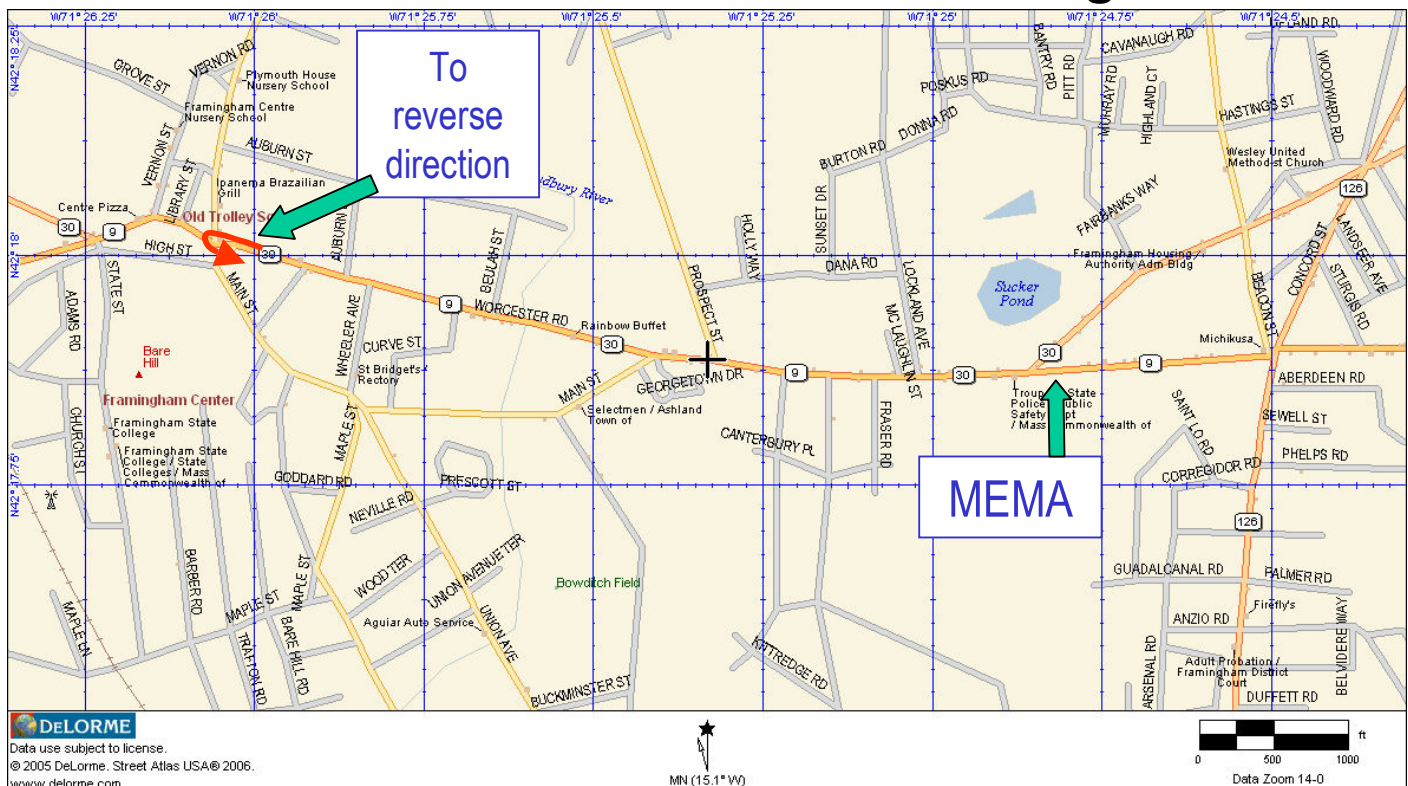
**Notes:** FTL = Full Time Linked (usually to the Hub).  
PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand).  
Most repeaters link to the MMRA hub. Several can link to an alternate destination.  
Additional repeater information is on the MMRA web site.

**PL:** PL is required to prevent interference. The code **750** will temporarily disable the MMRA PL requirement.

**Using the Autopatch:** Only the hub has a telephone line.  
(1) Link to the hub if necessary.  
(2) Then bring up the patch using the 449.925 autopatch codes.

**Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.**

## Directions to the MMRA Meeting



We will be meeting at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, 400 Worcester Road (Route 9 eastbound), Framingham, MA. The MEMA telephone is (508) 820-2000.

**Please monitor the talk-in on 146.79 in case we must make a last-minute change of plans.**

### From the West:

1. Take Mass Pike East to Exit 12 (Framingham Route 9).
2. Travel ~ 2 miles to MA State Police Headquarters on the right.
3. MEMA is immediately after the State Police (MEMA has several tall communications towers).
4. Enter through the gate.
5. MEMA is underground. Enter building and follow the ramp to the reception desk.

### From the East:

1. Take the Mass Pike West to Exit 13 (Natick/Framingham Route 30).
2. Take Route 30 West towards Framingham and drive for approximately 2 miles going through all lights until the end.
3. Bear right onto Route 9 Westbound.
4. Note that the MEMA communication towers are visible across Route 9 on the eastbound side. Continue approximately 1.2 miles on Route 9 Westbound to intersection with Main Street/Edgell Street.
5. Bear right at this intersection to exit Route 9, then follow the signs to make a U-turn.
6. Follow Route 9 back east for ~1.2 miles to MA State Police Headquarters on the right.
7. Now follow "From the West" # 3

### From the North or South:

1. Take Route 128 (95) to Route 9 West (Exit 20B).
2. Follow Route 9 for approximately 8 miles.
3. Now follow "From the East" #4

For those interested in dinner before the meeting, there will probably be a group meeting at Firefly's in Framingham between 5:30 and 6. Coordinate on 146.79.



## Heavy Hitters Traffic Net

(One of a series of articles on the NTS)

James Cahill, KB1LOY



Greetings to all MMRA members,

This will express our thanks to the MMRA Trustees and members who graciously allow the Heavy Hitters Traffic Net (HHTN) to take place on the linked repeaters of the MMRA network. The HHTN came to the MMRA on January 1, 2006 and meets Monday through Friday at 10 PM for the purpose of passing formal National Traffic System ("NTS") traffic (messages) to wherever third party traffic is allowed by law. The NTS was established by the ARRL in the mid-30's, soon spread nationwide and has continued to take place ever since. Visit the Eastern Massachusetts section website of the NTS at <http://nts.ema.arrl.org/> to find out more. *This is the first of a series of articles about the NTS.*

You are encouraged to check into the net, even if you do not have traffic. We really would like to know that you are out there and listening. Typical routine traffic includes messages passed to remind fellow hams of an upcoming license renewal date and to congratulate them for license upgrades/new call signs. The content of the message is not as important as regularly practicing the skill of taking and passing messages efficiently. The HHTN is also a "practice" net where you will be coached on

how to receive and pass NTS traffic if you wish. Many regular NTS stations do so because it is FUN once you get the hang of it!

The benefit of learning to receive and pass traffic is realized when an emergency arises be it weather related, a natural disaster or any other event since the format of NTS messages are recognized by nearly all responding agencies as an efficient and effective method to communicate. Please check into the net anytime, even if you are mobile, we are always glad to hear from new stations!

For the month of August the HHTN had the following activity:

- QTC: 91 (traffic count = 91 messages passed)
- QNI: 97 (check-ins = 97)
- QTR: 459 (cumulative duration in minutes for the month)
- No. sessions = 23 (average session duration ~ 30 minutes)

73,  
James, KB1LOY,  
NCS for HHTN on Friday evenings.

**Thanks to  
Ed White  
W1WRV**

The MMRA wishes to thank W1WRV for donating a Cushcraft 6m beam to the club. Ed won the antenna at Boxboro. We will be discussing how to best use it at the MMRA board meeting in October.

**DUES ARE DUE!**  
**Annual Dues are due on  
1 September**

**\$25 individual  
\$35 family**



## June Board Meeting

**Bob Evans, N1BE ~ Clerk**

The MMRA Board met at 7:30 PM in Firefly's Restaurant, Framingham MA on June 21st. Present were K1IW, W3EVE, K1KWP, N1BDA, N1NVK, KB1LOY, W1WH, W1DYJ, WAINVC and N1BE.

The following summarizes the items discussed.

Kevin, K1KWP presented a Treasurer's report which summarized our finances for the past year and projected the situation for the MMRA fiscal year that begins in September. For the year now ending, expenses were about 1% larger than our income, and we consequently spent down about 72 dollars from our savings. Due to control of other expenses, about 53% of our outlay was for repeater improvements. The "other" MMRA expenses covers items like rent, utilities, newsletters, insurance, bank fees, web hosting, and meetings. The projection for the new fiscal year was based on no change in "other" expenses, a constant number of dues paying memberships and a smaller amount of already planned repeater improvements. This projection shows about \$250 unallocated before more spending would reduce our savings.

Bob, K1IW, lead a discussion of repeater status and possible ideas to improve the usability of the linking.

The EchoIRLP computer board approved at the May meeting has been installed. This board requires a radio that provides a squelch or "carrier detect" signal and that signal was not easily available from the HT we had used to link the computer to our hub repeater. The board agreed to spend \$90 for a Radius mobile radio to replace the Bryan's HT. Part of revising the software also included a change of operating system from Windows to Linux. WAINVC suggested running Apache on this computer so that it could be monitored and controlled from the Internet by authorized users.

The linking discussion covered potential ways to simplify the codes used to control the repeaters. There were many opinions about this. K1IW will explore how much space is available in the controller for these ideas in conjunction with a change that eliminates the need for a "user access" code.

We also discussed which repeaters should be always linked. The consensus was to continue to have only one

2-Meter repeater full time linked. After receive problems at 146.82 in Brookline are cleaned up, we plan to full-time link that repeater by default instead of 146.61.

Roger, WAINVC, asked about placing a new 10-Meter FM repeater at some MMRA sites. He explained that this requires two sites separated by at least 5 miles. We discussed various pro's and con's of the Marlboro, Weston and Brookline sites without reaching any conclusion. There were concerns that we cannot erect a big antenna at Weston and there might be RFI issues with the ham station at the Clay Center. However the board seemed agreeable to the idea of having a 10-meter repeater at a MMRA site. Roger was encouraged to do some tests and come back with a more definite proposal.

MMRA participation at the Boxboro ARRL convention was briefly discussed. With the move of the 146.61 repeater, we will need to use another frequency to access the MMRA network from our suite. Larry, W1DYJ, will look at the newsletter sources to see if we can re-use the 2004 tri-fold brochure as a handout this year. At the February board meeting, we had a lengthy discussion of MMRA participation at Boxboro. As discussed at that time, K1KWP will coordinate the MMRA volunteers.

We discussed several ideas for meeting topics for the next year. Steve, N1BDA, agreed to act as "program director" and make arrangements for meetings. Please e-mail your ideas for meetings to Steve at [N1BDA@ARRL.NET](mailto:N1BDA@ARRL.NET).

Clark, N1NVK, suggested that he should no longer be trustee of the Stoneham UHF repeater since he is too far away to monitor it. The board approved Larry as the new trustee, so the 446.725 MHz repeater callsign will be changed to W1DYJ.

The board approved Jim, KB1LOY, as the Public Service/Emergency coordinator, replacing K1KWP and N1QPR in these roles. The primary responsibility of this role is to be a focal point for requests to use our repeater assets for public service, ensuring that we avoid conflicting requests. Jim may approve public service repeater usage without requiring a vote by the board.

## MMRA Annual Meeting

Bob Evans, N1BE

The MMRA met at 7:30 PM in The Campion Center, Weston MA on May 17th. Elections and purchase approvals were followed by a technical presentation.

All incumbent officers were re-elected to their current positions; we have retained President K1IW, Vice President N1BDA, Secretary W1JMC, Treasurer K1KWP, and Clerk N1BE. Terms of these officers expire at the 2007 annual meeting in May.



President  
Bob



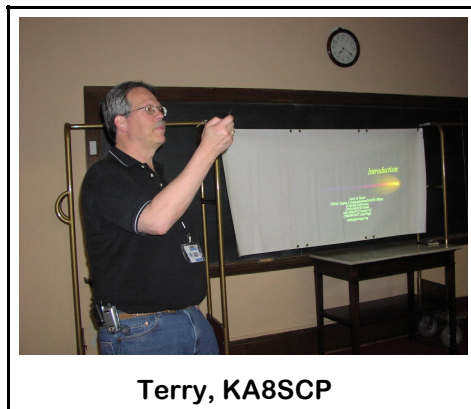
Members

Director positions previously held by W1CDA and W1DYJ were filled with N1NVK and new MMRA member W1WH. Director

terms are for two years so these seats come up for election again in 2008. WA1NLR and W3EVE are half way through their terms and will continue to serve as Directors until May 2007.

The members approved purchase of a DB224 2-M antenna, a UHF link receiver, and a \$150 IRLP computer expansion card.

Terry Stader, KA8SCP, gave a technical presentation about Emergency Plans and Procedures for the Seabrook reactor. Terry also filled us in on the late-breaking public service in response to the flooding in MA RACES Sector 1.



Terry, KA8SCP

## Boxboro Wrapup!!!

ARRL New England Division Convention — 25-27 August

Many members and friends of the MMRA stopped into the MMRA booth during the convention. Some of the highlights:

### Raffle

The ICOM 2M HT was won by N1VUX (Bill) and the SWR Power Meter was won by N1BDA (Steve)

### Memberships

Over 30 people took advantage of the MMRA booth to renew their membership — and most

did so for two years, which included free raffle tickets.

### Foxbox

Kevin, K1KWP, hid the Foxbox in different places for Saturday and Sunday. It was found by:

KB1IYK (John).  
N1NVK (Clark) and Jack  
N1FTT (Stewart)  
NC1O (Michael)  
KA1CVV (Edmund)  
KB1LTW (David)

## MMRA Leaders

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	John McGovern	W1JMC
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director 2006-08	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director 2006-08	Bill Hanrahan	W1WH
Director 2005-07	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director 2005-07	Bill Thorpe	WA1NLR
Emergency Coordinator	Bill Northup	N1QPR
Net Manager	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Newsletter Editor	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Public Service Coordinator	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

## Don't Forget!

**Tuesday's @ 8 PM**

**Technical, Informational  
and Other Stuff Net**

**Larry Banks, W1DYJ**

Most of the MMRA's repeaters are linked every Tuesday night for the MMRA TIAOS Net. Join us! Over the summer we averaged about six participants with a high of ten. This is a good way to keep up with what is happening with the MMRA as well as ask your ham related questions.

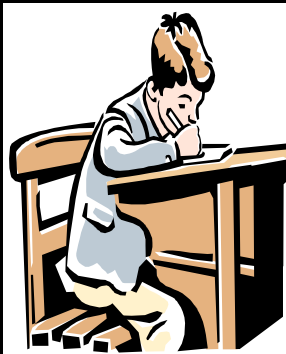
We are looking for a net control operator for the first Tuesday of each month – contact me at [W1DYJ@mmra.org](mailto:W1DYJ@mmra.org) if you would like to try your hand at running a net some evening – we have a script that you can use to start with. This is good practice for a number of ham related operations, from emergency preparedness to contesting.

### Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1 ?????	We Need You!
Week 2 W1EUJ	Dave Goncalves
Week 3 KB1KZI	Jimmy Devarie
Week 4 K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5 W1DYJ	Larry Banks (also substitute & Net Manager)

## Newsletter Delivery

If you received this via US Mail, you might want to think about having it sent by eMail. You will receive it earlier, it will be in color, it may have MORE great content, and it will save the MMRA \$\$\$! Send your request to [W1JMC@mmra.org](mailto:W1JMC@mmra.org).



## MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month

9 AM at the Marlboro Public Library

**Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ**

781-891-9079 Evenings 6 to 10 PM,

Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

**Accredited by the ARRL VEC**

# Membership Meeting — 20 September 2006

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## Calendar of Ham Radio Events

### Public Service Events

See this web site for contact information

<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

Oct 1	Cambridge MA	Alzheimer's Memory Walk
Oct 7	Pepperell MA	Pepperell Fall Classic
Oct 8	Boston MA	BAA Half Marathon
Oct 8	Pepperell MA	Pepperell Fall Classic
Oct 8	Westford MA	Tour de Westford Bike Ride
Oct 8	Monroe MA	Monroe Trail Races
Oct 9	Pepperell MA	Pepperell Fall Classic
Oct 20-22	Cambridge MA	Head of the Charles Regatta
Nov 11-12	Lowell MA	Lowell Youth Soccer Tourn.

### New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Markets

See this web site for contact information

<http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

6,7 Oct	Hopkinton NH	HossTraders
8 Oct	Wallingford CT	Nutmeg Conv
14 Oct	Nashua NH	NE Antique RC
15 Oct	Cambridge MA	FLEA at MIT
21 Oct	Manchester NH	Antique RC
22 Oct	Lindenhurst NY	ToBARES
28 Oct	Waterford CT	TCARC
28-29	Oct Watertown MA	Photographica
3 Nov	Feeding Hills MA	HCRA Auction
4 Nov	Londonderry NH	IRS
11 Nov	E Falmouth MA	FARA

### THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

**MMRA**  
**P.O. Box 669**  
**Stow, MA. 01775-0669**

Email: [contact@mmra.org](mailto:contact@mmra.org)



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/](http://www.mmra.org/)

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